

CHAPTER 4

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 Public Participation and Scoping

The public participation process for the Three Oaks Mine includes an open forum for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The USACE initiated the scoping process by publishing and distributing a Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on July 19, 2001 and a Public Notice for the proposed project on July 20, 2001. On August 21, 2001, the USACE conducted an EIS public scoping meeting in Giddings, Texas, to provide additional information regarding the proposed project to the interested public and to solicit public comments in either written or verbal format. The formal 60-day comment periods related to the Public Notice and the EIS public scoping process were extended for 1 week upon the written request of interested organizations. These revised comment periods closed on September 28, 2001. In addition, the USACE coordinated meetings with interested agencies on August 22, 2001; September 26, 2001; and October 11, 2001; to provide detailed technical information regarding key aspects of the project and to solicit agency input regarding the appropriate scope and analyses for the EIS. At the end of the comment periods, the USACE prepared a Scoping Summary, which was distributed to the individuals on the USACE's mailing list for this project.

The scope of this EIS reflects input received from the public and from the appropriate government agencies. Key issues identified during the scoping process include the following:

- Potential impacts on surface water and groundwater quality;
- Potential impacts of aquifer drawdown resulting from proposed mine dewatering and depressurization operations;
- Potential surface water impacts from proposed discharge of pumped groundwater;
- Direct and indirect impacts of soil erosion and sedimentation from disturbed areas;
- Potential road maintenance impacts as a result of post-mining subsidence;
- Potential impacts to rare native vegetation communities, biodiversity, and soil productivity;
- Potential impacts to wildlife, fisheries, and their habitats;
- Direct impacts to cultural resources;
- Potential air quality impacts from mine emissions and fugitive dust;
- Potential impacts to land use and recreation;

- Potential social and economic impacts on surrounding communities;
- Potential impacts of operations on local property values;
- Potential impacts to local traffic patterns and transportation routes; and
- Potential impacts to visual resources and local “quality of life.”

4.2 List of Agency Contacts

In preparing the EIS for the proposed Three Oaks Mine, the USACE communicated with and received input from various federal, state, and local agencies. The following sections identify these contacts.

4.2.1 Federal Agencies

Office of Surface Mining
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey

4.2.2 State Agencies

Railroad Commission of Texas
Texas Department of Transportation
Texas Historical Commission
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Water Development Board
University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology

4.2.3 County and Local Agencies

Bastrop County
Lee County
Milam County

4.3 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Companies to Whom Copies of this Statement are Sent

4.3.1 Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Bureau of Reclamation - Austin Reclamation Office
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
National Marine Fisheries Service

National Park Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Little Rock, AR; Tulsa, OK; Fort Worth and Galveston, TX)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Albuquerque, NM; Arlington and Austin, TX
U.S. Geological Survey

4.3.2 State Agencies

Central Texas Council of Governments
Railroad Commission of Texas
Texas Department of Transportation
Texas Forest Service
Texas Forestry Association
Texas General Land Office
Texas Historical Commission
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Water Development Board

4.3.3 County and Local Agencies

Bastrop County
Bastrop County Floodplain Administrator, Dept. of Health and Sanitation
Brazos County Commissioners Court
Capital Metro Transportation Authority
City of Buckholts Floodplain Administrator
City of Cameron Floodplain Administrator
City of Elgin Floodplain Administrator
City of Giddings Floodplain Administrator
City of Rockdale Floodplain Administrator
City of Smithville Floodplain Administrator
City of Thorndale Floodplain Administrator
City Public Service
Lee County
Lee County Floodplain Administrator

4.3.4 Newspapers, Libraries, and Local Repositories

Austin American-Statesman
Austin City Hall
Austin – City of Library
Bastrop City Hall
Bastrop – City of Library
Bastrop County Courthouse

Dallas Morning News
Elgin City Hall
Elgin – City of Library
Elgin Public Library
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Fred Schmidt Documents Department, The Libraries
Giddings City Hall
Giddings – City of Library
Lee County Courthouse
Lexington City Hall
Milam County Courthouse
Rockdale City Hall
Rockdale – City of Library
Rockdale Reporter
Travis County Courthouse
San Antonio Express–News

4.3.5 Other Organizations

Albert Muniz Revocable Living Trust
Caddo Tribal Headquarters
Conference Of Olympus
National Wildlife Federation
Neighbors for Neighbors
Presbyterian Childrens Home
Rev. Alvin Epperson L. Faith Lutheran Church
Reverend H. Sherrill J. House of Prayer
Roman Catholic Diocese
Seventh Day Adventist Church - C/O Wray Serl
Sierra Club
Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas
The Nature Conservancy Texas Field Office

4.3.6 Industry/Business

Acme Brick
Alcoa, Inc.
Aztec Development Company
Batalla Corporation
Bluegrass Coal
Brazos River Authority
Capital Area Planning Council
B&H Environmental Services, Inc.

Elgin Butler Brick
Geo-Marine, Inc.
GER Services
Knowlton-English-Flowers, Inc.
Mariah Associates, Inc.
Marina Power & Lighting, Inc
Padgitt Ranch Partnership, Ltd.
PBS&J
Prewitt and Associates, Inc.
Round House Ranch
Somerville Lake Office – Reservoir Manager
Turner, Collie & Braden, Inc.

4.3.7 Elected Officials

County Judge, Cameron, Texas
Douglas Hartfield Lee County Commissioner #2
Office of the Governor
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator Phil Gramm
State Representative, District 13 Texas House of Representatives
State Senator, District 18 Texas Senate
State Senator, District 5 Texas Senate